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ABSTRACT

When transferring into Vancouver secondary schools, students complete a "Choice of Schools Request Form," indicating basic demographic data and reasons for the transfer request. Comments from those who talk to transferees, however, raise questions as to the veracity of the information on the forms. Secondary school transfer applicants and their parents were surveyed to identify reasons for transferring. Both students and parents learned about different schools mainly from friends and family. Students transferred to schools to be with friends, satisfy their parents, get a "fresh start," enter particular programs, or attend schools with higher academic standards. Students transferred away because they were moving, disliked the school or classmates, or were expelled. Transferring to a school because the "discipline was more strict" was a reason given frequently by parents, but never given by students. (The appendices contain the sample questionnaires, results of the surveys, and a comparison of student and parent opinions.)
 (Author/HLM)

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A SURVEY OF REASONS WHY STUDENTS TRANSFER

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Research Report 80-01

December, 1979

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A SURVEY OF REASONS WHY STUDENTS TRANSFER

SUMMARY

The survey was conducted to examine the reasons why Vancouver students transfer from one secondary school to another or choose to enter Grade 8 in a secondary school outside the area where they live. Since parents may perceive the transfer process quite differently than students do, the opinions of both students and parents were solicited. The sample students were randomly selected from approximately 1,960 students identified as "transferees" in 17 secondary schools. A total of 312 (16%) of these students completed questionnaires and received other questionnaires for their parents/guardians. Of the 312 questionnaires sent home to parents, 107 (34%) were returned to Evaluation and Research Services. A summary of the results follows:

- both students and their parents learned about present schools mainly from friends and family; other sources of information for students were other students attending their last school and their present school and, for parents, were the students themselves.
- 33% of the parent respondents felt they made a joint decision with their son/daughter to transfer, 33% felt the decision was basically the student's and 30% felt it was basically their (the parents') decision.
- the five most important reasons students gave for transferring to a school were:
 - they "wanted to be with friends,
 - "parents wanted the transfer",
 - the student "wanted a fresh start",
 - "the school had a particular course or program", and
 - "the school had higher academic standards".
- the five most important reasons students gave for transferring from (or not attending) a school were:
 - they "had moved or were going to move",
 - "the school had a bad reputation",
 - they "didn't like the school",
 - they "didn't like/didn't get along with the other students", and
 - they were "kicked out/told to leave".
- when the students' and corresponding parents' questionnaires were compared, it was evident that some reasons were frequently given by both parents and students for transferring to a school - i.e.,
 - "wanting to be in the same school as friends",
 - "this school had higher academic standards",
 - "this school has a superior reputation",
 - "this school had a particular course or program", and
 - "this school had good athletics or sports program".

- some reasons were frequently given by both parents and students for transferring from a school -

- "we moved/are going to move",
- "the school nearby had a bad reputation",
- "didn't know many people there",
- "this school did not have a particular course/program",
- "didn't get along with the teachers",
- "didn't like the other school", and
- "the other school was too large/too impersonal".

- one striking difference between the responses of students and their parents was the parents' interest in discipline - transferring to a school because "the discipline was more strict" was a reason given third most frequently by parents and transferring from a school because "discipline was not strict enough" was ranked fifth; "discipline" did not show up in the top ten ranking of students for either question.

PURPOSE

This survey was initiated in response to a Vancouver School Board request to determine the reasons why students transfer from one secondary school to another or choose to enter Grade 8 in a secondary school outside the area where they live.

BACKGROUND

When transferring into Vancouver secondary schools, students are asked to complete a "Choice of Schools -- Request Form". The form requires students to supply some demographic data as well as the reasons why a transfer has been requested. Both student and parents sign the form which is then submitted to the school that the student would like to attend.

This process seems to be straightforward. However, comments from those who have talked to transferees raise questions as to the veracity of the reasons given on the forms. Students appear to know the reasons most likely to secure their transfers and may enter those on the request form rather than reasons more pertinent to their circumstances.

SURVEY DESIGN AND PROCEDURE

The survey was conducted to examine more closely those reasons given by Vancouver students for transferring. Since parents may perceive the transfer process quite differently than students do, the opinions of both students and parents were solicited.

Selection of samples. Each secondary school was asked to prepare a list of transferees, i.e., students who had

- (a) entered Grades 8 to 12 from another secondary school between 1979 September 04 and 1979 October 19, or
- (b) entered Grade 8 in 1979 September from an elementary school outside the secondary school's catchment area.

From each¹ school's list, 25 students were chosen at random to complete questionnaires. Questionnaires were also directed to the parents or guardians of the students in these samples.

1. Since one secondary school had very few transferees, it was decided to pilot test the instruments and procedures at this school. Data from the pilot study were not included in the final analysis. (See Pilot Study, page 2.)

Instruments. Questionnaires for students and parents were similar in design so that some responses of these two groups could be compared (see Appendix A for copies). Questions were asked about

- which sources, if any, were used to gather information about the school now attended by the transferred student,
- the three most important reasons for transferring to the present school, and
- the three most important reasons for transferring from the former school.

Procedure. The student questionnaires were administered in each school by staff from Evaluation and Research Services. Students received brief oral and written explanations of the study and were asked for their cooperation. Anonymity was ensured and students were encouraged to answer honestly.

Each student was also given a questionnaire and covering letter to take home to his/her parents or guardians. Parents returned the completed questionnaire to Evaluation and Research Services by means of pre-addressed envelopes.

Each student's questionnaire was coded with the same number as his/her parents' questionnaire. The number codes permitted the linking of students' and parents' responses to determine if their opinions differed.

Pilot Study. Since one secondary school had very few transferees, the students at that school were used to pilot test the questionnaires and administration process. After completing the questionnaires, the "pilot" students were asked if they had had any difficulty reading or understanding the materials. As a result of the pilot study, a few minor changes were made to the questionnaire. Several of the "pilot" students were interviewed in an attempt to determine whether they had responded honestly. The researchers felt that the "pilot" students had been honest in their responses.

Data Analysis. Parents' and students' responses were tallied for each of the closed-ended questions; responses to the open-ended questions were coded and then tallied. A "weighted importance index" was calculated for the three most important reasons reported by students.² The parents' responses did not lend themselves to determining "weighted importance". The students' questionnaires which corresponded to the returned parents' questionnaires were tallied a second time for comparison purposes. A ranking was made of the ten reasons most frequently reported by students and their parents for transferring to a school or not going to the secondary school in the area where they live.

2. The "weighted importance index" was calculated by multiplying the number of students who rated each response as the most important by 3, the second most important by 2, and the third most important by 1 and by summing the products.

Reporting the Results. The numbers and percentages of students and parents choosing each response are reported. The results of the surveys are summarized in the body of the report and detailed in the appendices as follows:

Appendix B - All Students' Opinions

Appendix C - All Parents' Opinions

Appendix D - A Comparison of Students' and their Parents' Opinions

RESULTS

The following is a summary of the reasons given by students and parents for transferring; a more detailed analysis is provided in the appendices.

Students' Opinions

Approximately 1,960 students were identified by the seventeen secondary schools as having

- (a) entered Grades 8 to 12 from another secondary school between 1979 September 04 and 1979 October 19, or
- (b) entered Grade 8 in 1979 September from an elementary school outside the secondary school's catchment area.

A total of 312 (16%) of these students responded to the survey, averaging approximately 18 students in each of the seventeen secondary schools. Eighty-nine percent of the students lived inside Vancouver City boundaries and 7% lived outside the City of Vancouver (4% did not respond to this question).

Sources of information. Students learned about their present school mainly from friends and family. Other frequently mentioned sources of information were the students attending their present school, students at their last school and various people with whom they had talked.

Reasons for transferring to a school. The five reasons given most frequently (not weighted by importance) by students for transferring to a school were:

"I just wanted a fresh start."

"My parents wanted me to go to this school."

"I wanted to be in the same school as my friends."

"This school was recommended by some friends."

"I'd heard that this school had better courses to choose from."

When the students' three most important reasons were weighted for importance, a "weighted importance index" was calculated. Table I presents the ten most important (weighted) reasons that students gave for transferring to their present school.

TABLE I

The Ten Most Important Reasons Students Gave for Transferring
to their Present School

Students' Reasons	Weighted Importance Index
I wanted to be in the same school as my friends.	155
My parents wanted me to go to the school.	137
I just wanted a fresh start.	127
This school had a particular course or program that I wanted to take.	105
I'd heard that this school had higher academic standards.	104
This school is closer to where I live.	84
I wanted to be in the same school as other members of my family.	73
I thought I could get better marks in this school.	72
I'd heard that this school had good athletics or sports programs.	66
I'd heard that this school had better courses to choose from.	64

Reasons for not attending a school. The five reasons given most frequently (not weighted by importance) by students for not going to the secondary school in their area were:

"The school nearby was not as good/had a bad reputation."

"We moved/are going to move."

"I didn't like/didn't get along with the other students."

"I didn't like the other school."

"I didn't know many people/didn't have any friends going there."

Table II presents the ten most important (weighted) reasons that students gave for not attending the secondary school in their area.

TABLE II

The Ten Most Important Reasons Students Gave for Not Going to
the Secondary School in their Area

Students' Reasons	Weighted Importance Index
We moved/are going to move.	83
The school nearby was not as good/had a bad reputation.	81
I didn't like the other school.	49
I didn't like/didn't get along with the other students.	47
I was kicked out/told to leave, etc.	44
I didn't know many people/didn't have any friends going there.	40
I didn't like/didn't get along with the teachers there.	40
I didn't do very well there.	28
The other school does not have a semester system.	28
The other school was further away/too far away.	26

Parents' Opinions

A total of 107³ completed questionnaires were returned by parents for a response rate of approximately 34%. One-third of the parents reported that the decision to transfer to the present school was a joint decision of both the student and the parents, one-third felt it was basically the student's decision and one-third indicated that it was basically their (parents') decision.

Sources of information. Parents found out about the present school mainly from friends and family. Other sources of information for the parents included the student and what various people had said to them.

Reasons for transferring to a school. The five reasons given most frequently by parents for the transfer were:

- "My son/daughter wanted to be in the same school as his/her friends."
- "I wanted my son/daughter to be in the same school as other members of our family."
- "I'd heard that discipline was more strict in this school."
- "From what others said, this school has a superior reputation."
- "I'd heard that this school had higher academic standards."

3. Since one parent completed two questionnaires, one for a student not in the sample, the sample of 107 parent questionnaires really corresponds to 106 parents; both questionnaires completed by the parent are included in the analysis.

Reasons for not attending a school. The five reasons given most frequently by parents for their son/daughter not going to the secondary school in their area were:

"The school nearby was not as good/had a bad reputation."

"My son/daughter didn't know many people/didn't have any friends going there."

"This school did not have a particular course/program or a particular course/program was not good."

"We moved/are going to move."

"Discipline was not strict enough/the other school was too rowdy."

A Comparison of the Opinions of Students and Their Parents

The responses of students and their parents were compared where the wording of the questions permitted. The analysis indicated that students and parents utilized similar sources of information to learn about the students' present schools. A similar proportion of students and parents reported finding out about present schools "from a staff member at the last school", "from other students", "from visiting the school" and "from what various people had said" to them. More parents than students indicated that they had learned about the school "from talking to staff members at the present school" and "from other sources."

"To be in the same school as friends" was the reason given most frequently by both students and their parents for transferring to a school. Both groups also reported "high academic standards" and a "superior reputation" very frequently (in the top five most frequent responses). Wanting "to be in the same school as other family members" and "discipline was more strict in this school" were reasons ranked 2nd and 3rd by parents; students ranked being "in the same school as other family members" 9th most frequent and "discipline" did not show up in the top ten rankings for students. Both parents and students ranked wanting "a particular course or program" and "good athletics and sports programs" in the top ten. Many parents mentioned "better teachers", the school being "closer to where we live" and "we moved/are moving" as reasons for the transfer; these reasons were not present in the top ten for students. On the other hand, reasons such as "my parents wanted me to go", "this school has better courses to choose from" were ranked highly by students but not by their parents.

Both the students and their parents indicated frequently (in the top five most frequent responses) that the student did not attend the school in their area or transferred because "the school nearby had a bad reputation", "they had moved or were planning to move", and the student "didn't know many people there". Although both students and their parents ranked these reasons in the top ten, students more frequently commented that they didn't like the other school" and "didn't like/didn't get along with the teachers", whereas parents more frequently reported that the other school "did not have a particular course/program or a particular course/program was not good". The parent respondents gave three reasons which were not ranked in the top ten by students - "discipline was not strict enough", the student "didn't do very well there", and the other school had "poor school spirit". The students, also, reported three reasons which ranked in the top ten for them only; they commented that they "didn't like/didn't get along with the other students", that their "parents didn't want them to go there", and that they were "kicked out/told to leave" the other school.

APPENDIX A

SAMPLE QUESTIONNAIRES AND INTRODUCTORY
LETTERS



BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 39 (VANCOUVER)

1595 WEST 10TH AVENUE, VANCOUVER, B.C. V6J 1Z8 TELEPHONE (604) 731-1131

**EDUCATION SERVICES GROUP
EVALUATION AND RESEARCH SERVICES**

1979 November 15

Dear Student:

The Vancouver School Board is interested in learning why students transfer from one secondary school to another or why students entering Grade 8 choose to go to a secondary school outside their area. Evaluation and Research Services has been asked to collect some information on why students transfer. For this purpose, we are surveying both students and parents (or guardians) to determine reasons for transfer.

Since you have made a transfer recently, we are asking you to help us by completing the attached questionnaire. As mentioned above, we are interested in two kinds of "transfers":

- (a) students in Grades 8 to 12 who have transferred from one secondary school to another, and
- (b) students who entered Grade 8 this year who chose a secondary school other than the one intended for students from the area where they live.

Please answer as honestly as you can as we are interested in the true reason why students transfer. You are not required to put your name on the questionnaire. No one in your school will see the questionnaire and your answers will in no way affect any transfers you have made or plan to make in the future. We are sincerely interested in the real reasons you transferred and your cooperation in completing this questionnaire is appreciated. Please put your completed questionnaire in the attached envelope and seal the envelope. Your responses will come directly to Evaluation and Research Services.

Thank you very much for your help.

Sincerely,

Lloyd MacDonald
Head of Program Resources

BS/rk
Attach.

Vancouver School Board - Education Services Group

STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRE

We would like to find out more about your reasons for choosing your present school. You can help by filling out this form.

A. How did you find out about the school you're now attending? (Check all those that apply to you.)

- from a staff member at your last school (e.g., teacher, counsellor, principal, V.P.)
- from other students at your last school
- from your friends
- from students attending your present school
- from your family (e.g., brother, sister, parents)
- from visiting your present school and looking around
- from talking to staff members at your present school
- from what various people had said to you
- didn't really know anything about this school
- other (please specify: _____)

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B. Try to think back to when you made the decision to transfer to or enter Grade 8 in your present school. Please read the items below and check the boxes next to the most important reasons that you had for transferring to this school. (You may check more than one box.)

1. This school was recommended by a counsellor.
2. I'd heard that discipline was more strict in this school.
3. I'd heard that this school had a more traditional program.
4. I wanted to be in the same school as my friends.
5. This school is closer to public transportation.
6. I'd heard that this school had a very good music program.
7. I'd heard that this school had good athletics or sports programs.
8. I'd heard that the school work was easier in this school.

☐
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- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 9. I thought I could get better marks in this school. | ☐ |
| 10. This school was recommended by some friends. | ☐ |
| 11. This school has a semester system. | ☐ |
| 12. I wanted to be in the same school as other members of my family. | ☐ |
| 13. I heard that this school had better clubs. | ☐ |
| 14. I just wanted a fresh start. | ☐ |
| 15. From what others said, this school has a superior reputation. | ☐ |
| 16. I'd heard that the administration in this school was better. | ☐ |
| 17. I was told to go to this school. | ☐ |
| 18. I'd heard that this school had higher academic standards. | ☐ |
| 19. This school is closer to where I live. | ☐ |
| 20. I'd heard that the teachers in this school were better. | ☐ |
| 21. My relative(s) attended this school in the past. | ☐ |
| 22. This school does not have a semester system. | ☐ |
| 23. This school has a special art program. | ☐ |
| 24. I'd heard that a student could be more independent in this school. | ☐ |
| 25. I'd heard that this school had better courses to choose from. | ☐ |
| 26. I'd heard that the school work was harder in this school. | ☐ |
| 27. I'd heard that I could get help with my problems in this school. | ☐ |
| 28. This school was recommended by my former principal (or vice-principal). | ☐ |
| 29. I'd heard that the discipline in this school was less strict. | ☐ |
| 30. I'd heard that this school had a special English program. | ☐ |
| 31. My parents wanted me to go to this school. | ☐ |
| 32. I'd heard that this school had lower academic standards. | ☐ |
| 33. I thought I'd like the teachers better at this school. | ☐ |

36. This school had a particular course or program that I wanted to take (what subject? _____).

☐

37. My previous school was closed.

☐

38. I wanted to be in a school where there were more students from my own ethnic or religious group.

☐

Please add any other important reasons why you wanted to transfer to this school.

39. _____

☐

40. _____

☐

41. _____

☐

C. Now please look at the reasons you have checked and pick the three most important reasons. Rank these reasons and write their numbers from the list above in the appropriate place below.

Number from list above

Most important reason

Second most important reason

Third most important reason

D. What were the main reasons you had for transferring from your former school or for choosing not to go to the secondary school specified for the area where you live? Please rank these reasons by putting the most important one first, then the second most important, and so on.

Most important reason: _____

Second most important reason: _____

Third most important reason: _____

E. Do you live outside the city of Vancouver (e.g., Burnaby, Richmond, North Vancouver, etc.)?

YES

☐

NO

☐

F. For Grade 8 students only:

(a) What elementary school did you attend last year? _____

(b) What secondary school were you supposed to go to? _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.



BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 39 (VANCOUVER)

1595 WEST 10TH AVENUE, VANCOUVER, B.C. V6J 1Z8 TELEPHONE (604) 731-1131

**EDUCATION SERVICES GROUP
EVALUATION AND RESEARCH SERVICES**

1979 November 15

Dear Parent:

The Vancouver School Board is interested in learning why students transfer from one secondary school to another or why students entering Grade 8 choose to go to a secondary school outside their area. For this purpose, Evaluation and Research Services has been asked to collect some information on why students transfer. Since the reasons students give for transferring may be quite different from those given by their parents (or guardians), the opinions of both students and parents are being surveyed.

As mentioned above, we are interested in two kinds of "transfers":

- (a) students in Grades 8 to 12 who have transferred from one secondary school to another, and
- (b) students who entered Grade 8 this year who chose a secondary school other than the one intended for students from the area where they live.

Since your son or daughter has made one of these two kinds of transfers recently, we are asking you to complete the short questionnaire attached to this letter.

Please answer as frankly as you can. You are not required to put your name on the questionnaire. The numbers on the questionnaires allow us to link parents' and students' responses. No individual parent or student response will be reported; all responses will be grouped and only a summary of the data will be reported.

Your cooperation is appreciated. Please put your completed questionnaire in the envelope provided and mail it to Evaluation and Research Services at the School Board office before December 5, 1979. If you have any questions or comments about this survey, please call Bob Stevens at 731-1131, local 281.

Thanks again for your help.

Sincerely,

Lloyd MacDonald
Head of Program Resources

BS/1b
Attach.

Vancouver School Board - Education Services Group

PARENT (GUARDIAN) QUESTIONNAIRE

We would like to find out more about why your son or daughter chose to transfer to his or her present school. You can help by filling out this form.

1. For the most part, whose decision was it that your son or daughter transfer to his/her present school?

- basically our (parents/guardian) decision ☐
- basically the student's decision ☐
- basically the decision of the student's last school ☐
- basically someone else's decision (whose? _____) ☐
- it was a joint decision (whose? _____) ☐

2. How did you learn about the school that your son or daughter is now attending? (Check all those that apply to you.)

- from a staff member at your son's/daughter's last school (e.g., teacher, counsellor, principal, V.P.) ☐
- from your son or daughter ☐
- from other students ☐
- from friends or family that attended the school in the past ☐
- you attended the school in the past yourself ☐
- you visited the school yourself ☐
- you talked to staff members at the new school yourself ☐
- from what various people have said to you ☐
- didn't really know anything about the new school ☐
- other (please specify: _____)
_____ ☐

3. In the past, a great many reasons have been given for wanting a transfer to another secondary school or for choosing to enter Grade 8 in a secondary school outside a student's area. Some examples of the reasons given for choosing a particular school are "more discipline", "needed a new start" and "friends or family attend that school". In your situation, what were the most important reasons why your son or daughter transferred to another secondary school or chose to enter Grade 8 in the school he or she now attends? Please rank these reasons by putting the most important one first, then the second most important, and so on.

Most important reason: _____

Second most important reason: _____

Third most important reason: _____

4. A great many reasons have also been given for wanting to transfer from a secondary school or for choosing not to go to the secondary school in a student's area. In your situation, what were the most important reasons why your son or daughter transferred from the last school he or she attended or chose not to go to the secondary school specified for where you live? Please rank these reasons by putting the most important one first, then the second most important, and so on.

Most important reason: _____

Second most important reason: _____

Third most important reason: _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

APPENDIX B

RESULTS OF THE SURVEY OF STUDENTS' OPINIONS

RESULTS OF THE SURVEY OF STUDENTS' OPINIONS

How students found out about their present school

	#	% ⁴
From your family (e.g., brother, sister, parents)	155	50
From your friends	135	43
From what various people have said to you	96	31
From students attending your present school	84	27
From other students at your last school	65	21
From a staff member at your last school	54	17
From visiting your present school and looking around	54	17
Didn't really know anything about this school	44	14
From talking to staff members at your present school	23	7
Other	39	12

Reasons students gave for transferring to their present school

	#	%
I just wanted a fresh start.	113	36
My parents wanted me to go to this school.	110	35
I wanted to be in the same school as my friends.	109	35
This school was recommended by some friends.	101	32
I'd heard that this school had better courses to choose from.	99	32
This school had a particular course or program that I wanted to take.	95	30
From what others said, this school has a superior reputation.	86	28
This school has a semester system.	83	27
I'd heard that this school had higher academic standards.	78	25
I thought I could get better marks in this school.	78	25
I'd heard that the teachers in this school were better.	74	24
I'd heard that this school had good athletics or sports programs.	73	23
I thought I'd like the teachers better at this school.	73	23
This school is closer to where I live.	71	23
I wanted to be in the same school as other members of my family.	66	21
I was told to go to this school.	52	17
My relative(s) attended this school in the past.	51	16
I'd heard that this school had a more traditional program.	49	16
This school is closer to public transportation.	42	14
I'd heard that the school work was harder in this school.	37	12
I'd heard I can get help with my problems in this school.	36	12
This school does not have a semester system.	35	11
I'd heard that the school work is easier in this school.	34	11

4. All percentages in this appendix are based on 312, the number of completed student questionnaires.

	#	%
I'd heard discipline was more strict in this school.	31	10
I'd heard that the discipline in this school was less strict.	30	10
I'd heard that a student could be more independent in this school.	28	9
This school was recommended by a counsellor.	26	8
I'd heard that the administration in this school was better.	24	8
This school was recommended by my former principal (or vice-principal).	20	6
I'd heard that this school had a very good music program.	17	6
I'd heard that this school had a special English program.	15	5
I'd heard that this school had better clubs.	14	5
I'd heard that this school had lower academic standards.	13	4
I wanted to be in a school where there were more students from my own ethnic or religious group.	11	4
My previous school was closed.	4	1

The following comments were added by students:

	#	%
I wanted to make new friends/meet new people.	18	6
We moved/are moving/plan to move.	13	4
I liked this school because it is smaller.	11	4
Students are friendly/good students in this school.	9	3
I wanted a different atmosphere/a good environment.	8	3
I'd heard it was a really good school/a better school.	7	2
I liked the people here/the people are friendlier.	6	2
This is the only school that would accept me/the only place I could go.	5	2
This school cares about the students/has a nice staff/has friendly teachers.	5	2
This school has a self-paced program.	4	1
This school has less violence/is less rowdy.	4	1
This school was recommended by a teacher.	4	1
I came to this school to pick up semestered classes/credits (to graduate).	4	1
This school is more convenient (can get a ride).	4	1
I can get a better education at this school.	4	1
I liked this school/the program here.	4	1
I liked this school because it is bigger.	3	1
I had no choice.	3	1
This school has more activities/more to do.	3	1
This school has more academic courses.	3	1
This school has a pool.	3	1
Miscellaneous reasons (given by fewer than 1% of the students)	64	21

Courses and facilities that attracted students to their present school

	#		#
Art	7	Languages	4
Drama	7	Foods	3
German	6	Music	3
B.C. Quest	6	Industrial Education	3
Wood work	5	Band/guitar	3
English/E.L.C.	5	Math/prep math	3
P.E./athletics/etc.	5	Machine shop	3
Computers	4	Humanities	2
Metal work	4	Power mechanics	2
Pre-employment	4	Creative writing	2
Automotive mechanics	4	Sciences	2
Secretarial courses	4	Hairdressing	2
Mini-school	4	Combined program	2
Other	4		

Reasons students gave for not going to the secondary school in their area

	#	%
The school nearby was not as good/had a bad reputation.	31	10
We moved/are going to move.	28	9
I didn't like/didn't get along with the other students.	19	6
I didn't like the other school.	18	6
I didn't know many people/didn't have any friends going there.	17	5
I didn't like/didn't get along with the teachers there.	17	5
I was kicked out/told to leave/etc.	15	5
The school did not have a particular course/program or a particular course/program was not good.	12	4
I didn't do very well there.	11	4
I was bored with/tired of the other school (and needed a change).	11	4
The other school was further away/too far away.	10	3
Discipline was not strict enough/the other school was too rowdy.	10	3
The other school does not have a semester system.	9	3
My parents didn't want me to go there.	8	3
I didn't like/didn't get along with the people at the other school.	8	3
The other school was too strict.	6	2
I was having problems/trouble there.	6	2
The other school was too large/too impersonal.	6	2
I didn't like the other school's atmosphere/structure.	5	2
I didn't like my friends/didn't want to be with my old friends.	5	2
There were poor teachers in the other school.	5	2

	#	%
I didn't like the area/the neighbourhood.	4	1
I didn't want to go to the same school as my sister/ brother.	4	1
The other school was too hard for me.	4	1
I couldn't get into the course/program I wanted.	4	1
The other school has a drug problem.	3	1
The other school had low academic standards.	3	1
The other school had a poor choice of courses/fewer optional courses.	3	1
Other reasons (given by less than 1% of the sample)	57	18

APPENDIX C

RESULTS OF THE SURVEY OF PARENTS' OPINIONS

RESULTS OF THE SURVEY OF PARENTS' OPINIONS

Whose decision was it that your son or daughter transfer to his/her present school?

	#	%
It was a joint decision of parents and student.	35	33
It was basically the student's decision.	35	33
It was basically our (parent's/guardian's) decision.	32	30
It was basically the decision of the student's last school.	5	5
Other	5	5

How parents found out about the present school

	#	%
From friends or family that attended the school in the past	57	53
From what various people have said to you	45	42
From your son/daughter	42	39
You visited the school yourself	32	30
You talked to staff members at the new school yourself	29	27
From other students	22	21
From a staff member at your son's/daughter's last school	19	18
Didn't really know anything about the new school	10	9
You attended the school in the past yourself	5	5
Used to live near this school/student attended feeder school before moving	3	3
From other sources	13	12

The reasons parents gave for the transfer to the present school

	#	%
My son/daughter wanted to be in the same school as his/her friends.	29	27
I wanted my son/daughter to be in the same school as other members of our family.	18	17
I'd heard that discipline was more strict in this school.	15	14
From what others said, this school has a superior reputation.	15	14
I'd heard that this school had higher academic standards.	14	13
I'd heard that the teachers in this school were better.	14	13
This school is closer to where we live.	12	11
This school had a particular course or program that my son/daughter wanted to take.	11	10
We moved/are moving/plan to move.	11	10

5. All percentages in this appendix are based on 107, the number of completed parent questionnaires.

	#	%
I'd heard that this school had good athletics or sports programs.	10	9
I liked this school because it is smaller.	10	9
My son/daughter just wanted a fresh start.	8	7
My son/daughter wanted a different atmosphere/a good environment.	8	7
This school is more convenient.	8	7
I'd heard that this school had better courses to choose from.	6	6
This school has a self-paced program.	5	5
My son/daughter wanted to go to this school.	5	5
This school is more academically oriented.	5	5
This school is closer to public transportation.	4	4
My son/daughter came to this school to pick up semestered classes/credits to graduate.	4	4
This school has a semester system.	3	3
I/relatives attended this school in the past.	3	3
I'd heard it was a really good school/a better school.	3	3
I liked the curriculum/program at this school.	3	3
The courses at this school are more suited to my son/daughter's needs.	3	3
This school was recommended by a teacher.	3	3
I'd heard that this school had a very good music program.	2	2
I'd heard that the administration in this school was better.	2	2
My son/daughter came here to make new friends/meet new people.	2	2
My son/daughter can get a better education at this school.	2	2
I liked this school.	2	2
This school had more choice of courses.	2	2
This school is near the home of friends/family.	2	2
I was pleased/satisfied with the staff's dealings with my other child.	2	2
My son/daughter wanted to go to a school other than the one his/her brother/sister attends.	2	2
The student's brother/sister had been happy there.	2	2
This school offered a mini-school.	2	2
This school makes the student work harder.	2	2
Other reasons (given by fewer than 1% of the parents)	23	22

The reasons parents gave for their son/daughter not going to the secondary school in their area

	#	%
The school nearby was not as good/had a bad reputation.	13	12
My son/daughter didn't know many people/didn't have any friends going there.	8	7
The school did not have a particular course/program or a particular course/program was not good.	8	7
We moved/are going to move.	6	6
Discipline was not strict enough/the other school was too rowdy.	6	6

	#	%
My son/daughter didn't do very well there.	5	5
The other school was too large/too impersonal.	5	5
I didn't like the other school.	4	4
The students at the other school were apathetic/had negative attitudes (poor school spirit).	4	4
I didn't get along with the teachers there.	3	3
My son/daughter was having problems/trouble there.	3	3
There were poor teachers in the other school.	3	3
The other school was further away.	3	3
My son/daughter didn't like/didn't get along with the other students.	2	2
The other school does not have a semester system.	2	2
My son/daughter didn't like/didn't get along with the people at the other school.	2	2
I didn't like the other school's atmosphere/structure.	2	2
I didn't want my son/daughter to go to the same school as his/her sister/brother.	2	2
The program at the other school was not suited to the needs of my son/daughter.	2	2
The other school was not providing enough academic stimulation/was less academically oriented.	2	2
My son/daughter did not want to attend the other school.	2	2
My son/daughter is behind his/her peer group.	2	2
Other reasons (given by fewer than 1% of the parents)	29	27

APPENDIX D

A COMPARISON OF THE OPINIONS OF STUDENTS AND
THEIR PARENTS

A COMPARISON OF THE OPINIONS OF STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS

How students and their parents found out about their present school

	Students n=106		Parents n=107 ⁶	
	#	%	#	%
From a staff member at the last school	15	14	19	18
From other students	29	27	22	21
From visiting the school	27	25	32	30
From talking to staff members of the present school	11	10	29	27
From what various people had said to you	42	40	45	42
I (We) didn't really know anything about the present school	9	8	10	9
Used to live near this school/student attended feeder school before moving	3	3	3	3
From other sources	5	5	13	12

6. Since one parent completed two questionnaires, one for a student not in the sample, the sample of 107 parent questionnaires really corresponds to 106 parents; both questionnaires completed by the parent are included in the analysis.

The ten reasons given most frequently by students and by their parents for transferring to the present school⁷

Students' Responses (n=106)	Frequency # %	Rank	Parents' Responses (n=107)	Frequency # %
I wanted to be in the same school as my friends.	39 37	1	My son/daughter wanted to be in the same school as his/her friends.	29 27
I'd heard that this school had higher academic standards.	39 37	2	I wanted my son/daughter to be in the same school as other member(s) of our family.	18 17
My parents wanted me to go to this school.	39 37	3	I'd heard that the discipline was more strict in this school.	15 14
From what others said, this school has a superior reputation.	38 36	4	From what others said, this school has a superior reputation.	15 14
This school had a particular course or program that I wanted to take.	34 32	5	I'd heard that this school had higher academic standards.	14 13
This school was recommended by friends.	33 31	6	I'd heard that the teachers in this school were better.	14 13
I just wanted a fresh start.	31 29	7	This school is closer to where we live.	12 11
I'd heard that this school had good athletics or sports programs.	30 28	8	This school had a particular course or program that my son/daughter wanted to take.	11 10
I wanted to be in the same school as other members of my family.	29 27	9	We moved/are moving/plan to move.	11 10
I'd heard that this school had better courses to choose from.	29 27	10	I'd heard that this school had good athletics or sports programs.	10 9

7. The frequencies with which students and their parents made each of these comments is not directly comparable for this question as students responded to a close-ended question (responses provided) and parents responded to an open-ended question (free response).

The ten reasons given most frequently by students and by parents for not attending the secondary school in their area

Students' Responses (n=106)	Frequency # %	Rank	Parents' Responses (n=107)	Frequency # %
We moved/are going to move.	10 9	1	The school nearby was not as good/had a bad reputation.	13 12
The school nearby was not as good/had a bad reputation.	9 8	2	My son/daughter didn't know many people/didn't have any friends there.	8 7
I didn't like the other school.	9 8	3	The school did not have a particular course/program or a particular course/program was not good.	8 7
I didn't know many people/didn't have many friends going there.	9 8	4	We moved/are going to move.	6 6
I didn't get along with/didn't like the teachers.	8 8	5	Discipline was not strict enough/the other school was too rowdy.	6 6
The school did not have a particular course/program or a particular course/program was not good.	6 6	6	My son/daughter didn't do very well there.	5 5
I didn't like/didn't get along with the other students.	5 5	7	The other school was too large/too impersonal.	5 5
My parents didn't want me to go there.	4 4	8	I didn't like the other school.	4 4
The other school was too large/too impersonal.	4 4	9	The students at the other school were apathetic/had negative attitudes (poor school spirit).	4 4
I was kicked out/told to leave , etc.	3 3	10	I didn't get along with the teachers there.	3 3